REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-41 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 have been canceled, and the specification has been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to based on minor informalities which have been addressed by this Amendment, e.g., by adding various headings to the disclosure as well as making several corrections to the specification which are noted in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Applicants' own International Publication No. WO 02/40988. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

New independent claim 20 combines subject matter from original claims 1 and 3. In the Office Action, claim 3 was not rejected and was, in fact, indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 20 and its dependent claims (claims 21-29) should be in allowable form.

With respect to independent claims 13 and 14 (now claims 30 and 36), WO '988 does not teach a method to produce a chromatography column which includes establishing a predetermined length L for said capillary column, and, for said predetermined length of said column, determining at least a resistance R1 or R2 of one or more electrical conductors to heat the column and/or to detect the temperature of the column by weaving together a pre-established number of filaments and electrically conductive material to form one or more electrically conductive tubular meshes coaxial with the column.

WO '988 is discussed in the Background of the Invention on pages 2 and 3. However, it may not be very versatile from a practical point of view because it may be necessary to obtain columns of pre-established length with conductive elements having specific electrical properties, for example, overall resistance, specific linear resistance, and the like. Thus, the resistance range of the conductive elements of the column must be established according to the control system which means that it is necessary to appropriately choose the conductive material to be used, or the diameter of the filament is to be woven to obtain the desired conductive element associated with the column of pre-established length. Nonetheless, the need to obtain the specific electrical characteristics or properties may also require the use of filaments produced with conductive materials that are not easily workable, or the use of conductive filaments whose diameter is not particularly suitable to be woven or not particularly suitable to produce the finished product with specific dimensions and/or mechanical resistance.

As such, WO '988 does not teach or suggest establishing a predetermined length of the capillary column and for that predetermined length of the column, determining the resistance R1 or R2 of one or more electrical conductors to heat the column and/or to detect the temperature of the column. In addition, WO '988 does not teach determining or setting the resistances by weaving together a pre-established number of filaments in the electrically conductive material to form one or more electrically conductive tubular meshes coaxial with the column, as recited in claims 30 and 36.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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